

**HUNTING AND FISHING ADVISORY EDUCATION COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES**

June 16, 2009

Baton Rouge, La

The following constitute minutes of the Hunting and Fishing Advisory Council Meeting  
and are not a verbatim transcript of the proceedings.

Tapes of the meetings are kept at the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

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Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70808

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**HUNTING AND FISHING ADVISORY EDUCATION COUNCIL  
MEETING AGENDA**

**Tuesday, June 16, 2009 - 1:30 p.m.**

**Louisiana Room**

**Louisiana Dept. of Wildlife & Fisheries Headquarters  
2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, La. 70808**

1. Roll Call
2. Approval of Minutes of March 17, 2009
3. Welcome and Opening Comments  
Woody Crews, Chairman
4. Member Organization Overview:  
  
LA Wildlife Federation (Vance Gordon)  
Ducks Unlimited (Jeff DeBlieux)
5. Enforcement Division Report: May 2009 Case Reports  
Lt. Col. Keith LaCaze
6. Office of Fisheries Report: Tilapia Rapid Response Project  
Mark McElroy, Biologist Program Manager
7. Legislative Session Progress Report  
Lt. Col. Jeff Mayne
8. Report on LDWF-State Parks Joint Promotion (June 6-7)  
Bo Boehringer, Press Secretary
9. Set Next Meeting Date
10. Receive Public Comments
11. Adjournment

**Hunting & Fishing Advisory Education Council  
Meeting Minutes -- June 16, 2009**  
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**Roll Call**

Members of the Hunting and Fishing Advisory Education Council that were in attendance were Vance Gordon, Nelson Roth, Mr. CT Williams, Mike Windham, Lyle Johnson, Stephen Pellessier, Jeff DeBlieux, and Mr. Woody Crews.

Those not in attendance were Mike Rainwater, Will Courtney, Samuel J. Smith, Shane Crochet, David Rousseau, Eric Sunstrom, and Dr. Donald Reed.

**Approval of Minutes of March 17, 2009**

Approval of the March 17, 2009 minutes will be postponed until the next meeting.

**Welcome and Opening Comments**

Mr. Woody Crews, Chairman, offered opening comments and welcomed all in attendance.

**Member Organization Overview**

The LA Wildlife Federation

Vance Gordon will give a presentation at the next meeting

Vance Gordon will give a presentation at the next meeting and CT Williams will serve as a backup presenter for the September meeting.

Mr. Crews asked Mr. Jeff Deblieux to give his prepared presentation.

Mr. Deblieux gave a presentation regarding Ducks Unlimited

He presented a map to display the efforts that have been made in South Louisiana. He then discussed the ducks that have come from the band recovery over time and other projects that have been underway with other organizations and agencies across the southern states.

He then discussed the use of water control structures to increase habitat for waterfowl. Along with the cost of lease, the control structure can hold waterfowl that the can be viewed by the public with no charge

A project is currently underway with other agencies at Grand Bayou where a few units that are working with the Department of Natural Resources, Exxon, and the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. Money used by these sponsors is being investing the area to be applied to this project for a better habitat for future hunting in the Terrebonne area. A map of the various Wildlife Management areas was then shown in relation to the current and future projects.

Next, the Installation of duck wing terraces was discussed. Their location is mostly in the South Western region of Louisiana. The map showed how the terraces stop the wave action and creates aquatic growth that supplies food for ducks and other birds. Ducks Unlimited needs the continued support of all other state agencies.

Jennifer Grand was just hired to work with the legislature in an effort to make Ducks Unlimited available to help in any way in regards coastal restoration.

The topic of License plate revenue was then discussed in regards to investments and where the money is to be allocated. Eighty eight cents of every dollar donated to Ducks Unlimited goes toward conservation. He added that there are more duck hunters than Ducks Unlimited members in south Louisiana and in north Louisiana, almost every duck hunter is a Ducks Unlimited member.

He then thanked the department for its assistance with the youth hunter education challenge where between one hundred and one hundred and eight children attended hunter safety program that operates on with a level of competition by means of various events. He expressed the organizations desire to continue this program and the need to invite other organizations to donate to these types of events.

\*presentation available

Mr. Crews asked stated that Mr. Vance Gordon would give a presentation at the next Meeting on the Louisiana Wildlife Federation.

Lt. Col. Keith Lacaze offered a monthly case report similar to that which is presented at the monthly Wildlife and Fisheries Commission meetings.

\*report available

He then discussed the life vest loaner program and how it is being used as a tool to teach boaters about good condition and proper fitting life vest; then they are instructed on where to return the life vest after usage. Along with this program, our agents will hand out t shirts to children that are wearing proper life vest.

The subject of operating a boat under the influence of alcohol was discussed by Mr. Lyle Johnson and Mr. Crews. It was suggested that the public be made more aware of the laws by way of signs that could be posted at boat launches.

Mr. Crews invited Mr. Mark McElroy of the Research and Assessment Division to make his presentation.

Mr. McElroy discussed the publicized tilapia rapid response project in the Port Sulphur area. The invasive species proliferated; not a wide dispersion area, but an area 7 or 8 miles long.

Permits were issued for over 20 years for these highly desirable fish, but aquaculture permit criteria are very stringent. They grow fast and provide a good portion size for

restaurants. It is important to know specifically what animal we are dealing with as each has its own life history. Also, tilapia in general have salinity tolerances and they can survive in saltwater or poor quality fresh water. The concern was over the spread of the species into brackish marsh waterways, as well as freshwater.

He then discussed the first incidence of dealing with the situation in December and January and how the fish were discovered in a drainage ditch. He then discussed the methods by which the department began in June to treat the fish where they were concentrated.

Mr. Pellessier asked how long the treatment chemical is effective.

Mr. McElroy explained the process by which the department determined the level to which chemicals should be used and dispensed.

Mr. Crews invited Lt. Col. Jeff Mayne to deliver the legislative update for the department.

Lt. Col. Jeff Mayne addressed the bills that were either department bills, or bills tracked closely by the department, focusing on the more controversial ones such as DWI regulations in regards to boaters and the change in laws relative to children wearing personal flotation devices and the required use of a kill switch on the specified water craft.

\*a full legislative report is available

Mr. Bo Boehringer then delivered a presentation on the June 6-7 Free Fishing Weekend opportunity that was available in conjunction with the Office of State Parks' "Day in the Park" event on June 6. The joint agency promotion encouraged participants to take advantage of easy access fishing opportunities across the state. State Parks provided free day-use admission to all parks on June 6.

State Parks visitor numbers nearly doubled from the previous year's first June Saturday total (15,900 vs. 8,600). There were 600 participants total at the fishing clinics staged at six State Park sites. Goody bags and door prizes were available at those six sites, along with other activities for park users – all in conjunction with Free Fishing Weekend and State Parks' 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. Academy Sports & Outdoors and Livingston Lures provided the primary sponsorship support for the June 6 event.

\*Presentation available

Mr. Crews requested that Mr. McElroy deliver an update on the tilapia issue at the next meeting date.

Mr. McElroy agreed.

Mr. Crews requested that Bo send the presentations from this meeting to the members who were not in attendance.

He then requested an attendance grid be made by Christina Hendrick in order to monitor members' attendance.

Mr. Crews requested a discussion of the next meeting date, and September 15, 2009 was agreed upon.

The members were dismissed.